DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 278 889 CG 019 667

TITLE Is School Important?: Essays by People Who Know.
INSTITUTION Alaska State Dept. of Education, Juneau.
PUB DATE [87]
NOTE 32p.
PUB TYPE Collected Works - General (020)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adult Students; *Continuation Students; *Dropout Attitudes; *Dropouts; *Educational Attainment; Essays; *Graduation; *High School Equivalency Programs; High Schools; Writing (Composition)

ABSTRACT

This document contains a collection of essays written by students in General Educational Development (GED) programs. The students had dropped out of high school and are now seeking an equivalency diploma. In the essays, students discuss why they quit school, how well they did in school, what they learned there, and whether it was difficult for them in the "real world" without a diploma. They offer advice to other students who are considering dropping out of school. The essays represent a first writing assignment in Correspondence Study. They appear exactly as they were written except for names and places, which were deleted to protect the privacy of the students. Punctuation and spelling remain as in the original. These essays provide high school students who are deciding whether to graduate or drop out with a different perspective to consider when making that decision. (NB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED278889

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

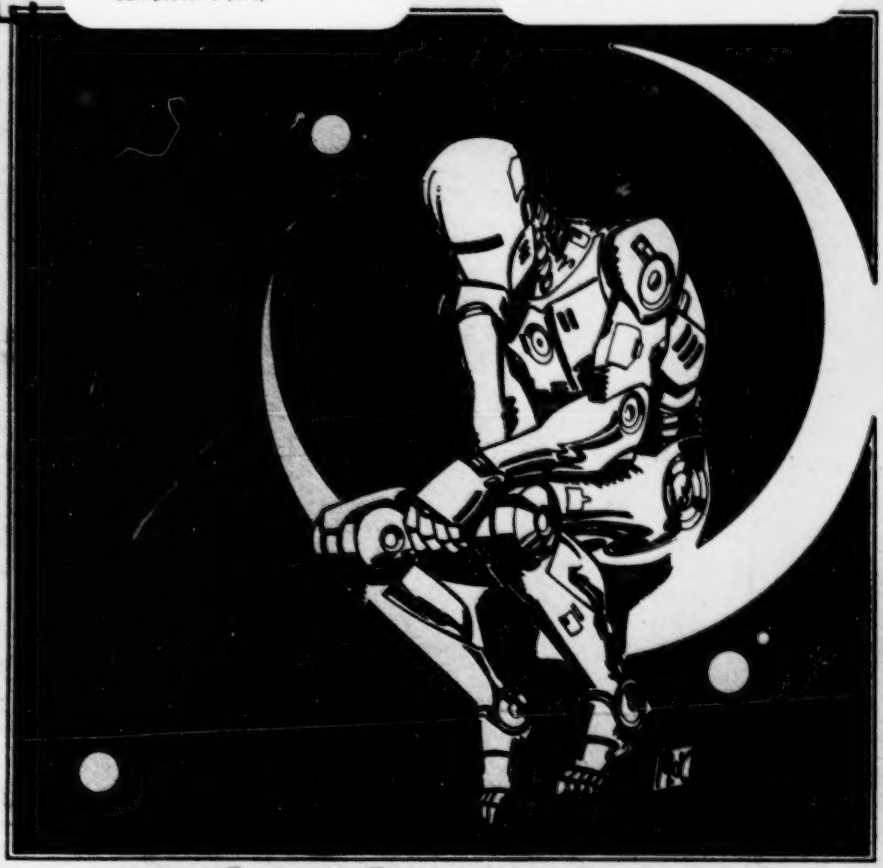
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

R. B. Engen

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

CG



Is School Important?

CG 019667

Essays by People Who Know

2

INTRODUCTION

The following essays were written by GED students in Correspondence Study as a first writing assignment. These students dropped out of high school, but now, years later, they are seeking an equivalency diploma. They were asked why they quit school, how well they did in school, what they learned there, whether it was difficult for them in the REAL WORLD without their diplomas, and what advice, if any, they have to give others who are considering quitting school.

The essays were typed exactly as they had been written, except for names and places, which were deleted to protect the privacy of the students. Punctuation and spelling remain as in the original.

This assignment was quite difficult for many students because the subject is private and very personal. However, each wrote a theme hoping that it would give you another perspective as you consider your options: completing school or quitting.

Is School Important?

Why I left school in the eleventh grade was a lack of credits needed for my last year. not even going to night school would have helped, that's how far behind I was.

What I have or rather did learn in school I'm very grateful for now. I have many questions now as to why this? why that? You won't notice this till you're out and you'll find the answers where once on your desk in front of you. If you want wait and see, you'll kick your self in the rear also.

A education is for you to keep all your life so you can have fun to enjoy the finer things in life. Are you going to have someone eles sign your pay check for the rest of your life? Would'nt you like to be a executive? or does welfare sound fine to you? Welfare is mostly for low life. Thats how people think. Look at it this way I don't know you, I kon't even care about you. This is a fact of life, if I can get ahead of you, I will leave you behind. The one who dies with the most toy's wins. Winner or loser you pick. You can tell some people they need a education till you're blue in the face, but the biggest test of all, and most hardest is life, and you'll find with out a education you'll never make it. You'll have to work nickle and dime jobs for the rest of your life. I don't have any advice to give, if you can't understand what I just wrote too bad. I don't care for my complexion to turn blue. I do feel very lucky so far with my life. I do want a career now, maybe I'll be someone one day. The only thing that holds me back is that I procrastinate.

The reason why I felft school is because of one narrow minded teacher. Well, It happened during my last year in school. I was late, and this teacher start asking me why I was late and said, you were out smoking a cigarrette. So the teacher kept pucking on me and I said something. ANd she said to me go talk to the principal about what you just said to me. By then I was mad, so I told her this is the last time I'm going to be in your class.
I was a 12th grader. So I walked out of the school and went home.

I remember just going to high schoolfro mElementary Well, I learned alot! I learned alot in Shop classes, Food & Nutrition, History, English,science, Health, Reading, I didn't do good in algebra and math. Oh! also I did good at Physical Ed.

The reason why I am working for my GED is because of future jobs.

So far I'm getting the hang of it. I want my diploma. I'll try again and again till I get a diploma. I think it's not going to be hard on me.

My advise to young people in high school don't get caught empty handed, always be prepared. And don't let those white's push you too far. I guess everyone know what I mean. And don't walk or quit school. You are going to regret it in near future. Me I never regret quitting. I can always earn my living off the land by trapping, fishing and so on. As our elders where doing for century.

I'm just sitting here thinking about the booklet you sent me. You asked me if I would write an essay including a few subjects like "Why I left school". Well after reading the booklet everyone in this booklet has said just about the same, "I'm really stupid to have quit high schook, etc., etcra.

I left high school after my tenth grade. I was living 45 miles away from the closest school. Driving back and forth everyday was not safe. Besides getting up at 4:30 in the moring. But these are just simply complaints. I left school because I hated it. I felt the teachers and administration did not have any heart in doing their jobs.

I had to have learned something of course in school but I know I could of learned much much more.

I feel sick about not having my high school diploma. I just know that one day I'm going to need my diploma for some job, but most of all for myself.

I really don't have any advice for you young people. Every human has a mind and everyone wants to do as they please, so if leaving school is what you want to do I don't feel I have the right saying "Don't you'll regret it."

Not having my diploma has been hard on me for a couple reasons. Money, of course is one reason. I have to pinch alot. Sure I'm making it, but I could be doing alot better if I would have stuck it out and got my diploma. My pride was hurt the worst thought. I didn't stick it out.

I know what you're thinking. It would be so much easier to quit school. You could get a full time job and you would'nt have any problems. Think again!

Stick it out! Anyway you can, but make sure you have that high school diploma in the end. Make it a war if you have to - you againest the teachers. Beat them! Graduate and walk-out of that school with your head held high!

Someone who has
been there & wishes
she could go back!

GOOD LUCK!

Back home where I came from, going to highschool is expensive. I was forced to leave school due to financial problem.

I was in fourth year highschool then, and almost halfway to get my diploma. I learned a lot in school. I was taking History, Geometry, English, Science and other Academic subjects when I was in school. Its been ten years since I attended school and all my knowledge seems like smoke went up in the air. Its hard to grow up without knowledge and that's what I feel now. It seems lsike I'm getting older and dumber. I want to go back to school and learn some more and get ready for opporutnity when it comes. After all I live in the land of Oppurtunity.

My advice to young people is don't waste your chance and time. Their lucky to have free school, buses and books. A lot of my countrymen is fighting for this thing, they dont want it free, they just want it cheap.

I grew up with the same kids, same neighborhood, same schools, up through eleventh grade. My senior year my folks moved us to much smaller town, & schools. Class rooms were a third as big as I was used too, they seem too expect much more from you on a individal basis.

Being an average student C average at the first school, sure didn't help, during forth quarter of my last semester of the year, they came up with, I needed more credits there in, P.E. of all things! that the other school. But I did not have enough time to do it. So "I said". see ya round, and I got a job.

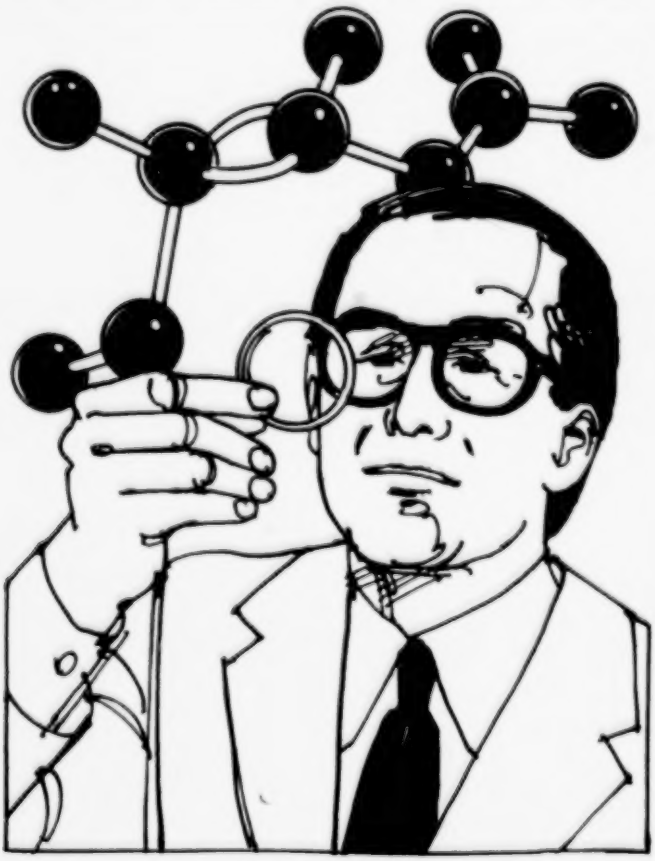
Of course now eleven years later I sure do wish I had! You tend to forget Things, and a persons mind does not think quiet as accurate after Eleven years.

I recently obtained a job requiring a high school diploma.

They gave me nine months to obtain some kind of proof of smartness. Haven't really gotten started yet, but I know parts are going to be hard for me.

You know I really haven't much advice, as young people hardly ever listen any way. Just try hard to put out some kind of effort, and remember all things that you think are dumb aren't always as dumb as you think or as tough. Pay now or pay later no way around it.

I had a couple of good reasons for quitting school. I developed a way of thinking. I thought the schools where crowded with workers and not enough real teachers that teach. Another reason is because I know what I want to be in life. And the schools don't let me take aviation science because of my grades. I didn't learn alot from school. Because if I want to learn about a certain field, I don't learn from paper or books but from watching it take place in front of my eyes. I am not really working for my diploma, but getting ready for flight school. My advise to younger kids is this - go to school if you want to be a doctor banker, technition, or along that line. But if your going to do what you want to do nobody can teach you but yourself.



My name is XXXXX, I left school at 15 years of age. As a left handed person in the schools in the 1950's it was very hard to get along. We were always being harrassed to do and write things right handed. As time went by I thought I didn't need school so I quit. School work wasn't all that hard in the 50's at least not to me. I always got good grades A & B's except in penmanship which I always failed I was in 9th or 10th Grade I really don't remember what grade I was in. However the only job I could get was as a garbage man. I worked an average 10 to 12 hrs. a day 6 days a week for $50. a week. I kept this wage for more than 4 years, never getting a raise or praise for good work. I looked for other better paying jobs and always got the same tune. Go back to school. I still thought I didn't need this. I got very indignant & blamed others for my lack of schooling. I only got my first raise after I got married at age 18 yrs. Then I got a whopping $65. a week. As the years went by I stopped looking for other work & spent 22 yrs on the same job type. Though all the years my wife & I had four children. Three boys & one girl.

Through our lack of knowledge of raising kids or the basic importance of education. My three boys to the last one all quit school early. As a result 2 boys have had scrapes with the law by not being able to find jobs. My oldest son and the middle one both had to get thier diplomas in the detention centers. My

youngest son is now under court order to go to school untill he is 19. My daughter seeing all this going on around her finished school with no problems at all. My wife & I only learned this by extensive counseling & family help that perhaps could have been avoided by us instilling better values in our children. I am now 42 yes old & trying for my diploma because: I am still only a janitor with no hope of bettering myself. My wife is disabied because I could never earn enough money to support us & she had to work as a maid sometimes 6 & 7 days a week. As a result she got so tired & started making mistakes at work. Finally her legs gave out & she fell & will never wald right again. My advice is think about these things very hard. Is this what you want for you kids. Your wife or husband. Beleive me this is no bull story it is true it has to do with lack of education & proper higer learning. Anybody can work at service jobs but remember these should be only temporay jobs while you go to school to learn a trade.

I might add with all our Troubles. Myself my wife & our children never resorted to drugs or alcohol. It is much harder to get jobs now than when I quit because of computers & the space age. So come on guys gals go to school don't wind up like my family it is really no fun doing without.

There are just a few reasons I left school. One of them is, my Grandpa needed someone to help him trap and travel to places where he used to get subsistance. And another is, I felt I needed some time to spend some time with my Grandpa and his family since I have'nt been here at XXXXX for ten years. One more reason I left school was, I wanted to see if my teacher from XXXXX would come and bring me back to school. He told us, all of the eighth grade, that he would come and get any of us that left school. But he didn't show up like he said he would. I left XXXXX, no! I didn't leave, I didn't go back after I finished the ninth grade at XXXXX. I learned that when your going high school for the first year, that sophomore's help greenhorn's while the junior's and senior's tease, and keep calling us greenhorns. I learned to work on my home work right after school so I could have the rest of the day off to do withthe rest of what I have left to do. The first few months I was in school, I worked hard on my studies cause I thought all students would talk about me not keeping up with them. Then I kind of fall behind when on of my friends, friend started to show me places in XXXXX that I have'nt been to after school. And one day we started to skip school. Then I really started to fall back from school when I tryed some pot he had. At first I didn't smoke too much but got worse by the day, and I almost left school when my grades droped. I'm working for my diploma beacuse I can see that with only one career is not for me. My only occupation is Commercial fisherman. It was easy when I first started working hard on my studies with an clear head. But after I

started smoking pot it got hard then it got to the point where I didn't care anymore if I got good or bad grades. But some how I quit with the help of my Grandpa. Maybe my Grandpa some how knew that I was not the grandson he knew from the few visits to XXXXX where I lived for ten years. Now some advice for young people. I don't think there is any good or nice advice. But people are only human like the rest of us. Lets see what I have done to regret and what I can try give for you young peopl, some advice. Well, you young people that think that you don't need to complete school, you better think again cause school can be only thing thats essential for what you can be when your an adult and while your still young and able please try and learn what is being taught to you by your teacher. Who knows maybe some day you will thank your teacher for what you want to be or become.

But of course of all things if you fool around you goof off you will never or will not know what you could have become by the time your (25) yours old. Some advice I'd like to give you is learn while you could, and complete school for the best that life can give you. and most of all stay away drugs and drinks. I learned that drugs and alcohol won't get you the things you need to enjoy life and live to live. Learn it from people thats been there and want an better life for themselves and for you so you don't have to go through it to find out how it is. Let me tell you its an trap for misery. Teacher I would like an copy of my story you write if you will have an story of what I been through. It was a little sample of hell that could have been worse.

The Importance of a Diploma

My name is XXXXX and I went to school until I was 16 years old. I thought I was very mature for my age, and that I didn't need a high school education to be smart. I might have been alot more mature than some of the other kids my age, but that sure didn't make me smart.

I quit school after completing the tenth grade. In fact, I got married to a man in the Army. I sure didn't think you had to be smart to be a housewife, so I quit school.

I did like school and I made good grades I made A s in Science/Biology and English. I did real well in Math also, even though I never made it past Algebra. I think back on how much I enjoyed my Biology and English and Math and I wonder if I would have kept up with it, maybe I would be the doctor or nurse I always wanted to be.

It has been pretty hard for me since I quit school. I got divorced after four years. Maybe he didn't think I was so smart after all. I couldn't evern keep a checkbook straight. I couldn't find a job because I was so young and had NO DIPLOMA. Many of the simplest jobs said, "Do not apply unless you have a high school diploma".

Well, I finally found one that paid minimum wage and I drove 25 miles just to get to work. I couldn't afford my car payments so I lost it and had to move back in with my parents just to make ends meet.

I am married again now and have a wonderful family with three children, but I still don't have a diploma. I am working for it right now though. I know that I might need it someday to get a decent job, if not for my own self-satisfaction.

Please realize, it is very important to stay in school. If you ever really want to make anything out of your life, besides working for small wages and living with your parents, you must realize how important the education is.

I think you probable are very smart for your age and are probably very level headed, but when you get 25 or 30 years old, you'll realize how dumb you really are adn you will regret not trying to learn something.

Believe me, if you stop your learning process right now, that's exactly what is going to happen. Everything will stop and alot of it will be forgotten. You will end up never being any smarter than you are right now.

The Importance of a Diploma

This is why your education is very important and I hope you will really take these thoughts into consideration if you are thinking of quitting. We would be surprized to know how much information our minds can hold and how little we really do know . Think of how much a doctor really knows in his mind, because he took the time to go to school.

Please, stay in school and give it some more time. The time will go by faster than you think, and if you don't try at all, someday you will realize it's too late. We can never go back and undo the damage after we drop out, but we can try to make th ebest of our lives with knowledge. Go forward with your education and learn all that you can.

You may not care what others think, but at least be proud of yourself.

I would like to say that I quit school because I needed to help my family, or some such thing, but, I really just thought school wasn't really very important. I didn't think I needed any more than my Junior year.

I was an "A" student, and very involved with Band, Orchestra, Choir and Drama Club. It wasn't because I couldn't do the work, things were fine for a few years. It wasn't until after I'd been married quite a few years that I started to feel unimportant. I felt the only thing I could do were be a mom and a housewife. My husband and my children were leaving me behind and I felt left out.

After doing 3 years volunteer work in a grade school library, I really decided I had "missed the boat" I was working with computor's with no problem, doing the Dewey decimal system, alphabetizing books, working with children. I felt for the first time, important. I knew that if I had gone on with my schooling, I could have been paid for what I was doing.

What I would really like is to be able to work in a public library and I know I would have to have, at the very least, a G.E.D.

I have made it real clear to my children, that if they are to suceed in today's society they must better themselves in education this is especially true for my daughters. They must keep in mind, that being female, you can not always depend on someone else to take care of you someday they may have to help support themselves and their families and if they have no skill, they could find themselves in a bad situation.

Before you decide to drop out of school, think carefully about your future. Do yourself a favor and develop your skills to their fullest potential. It may make the difference between a "Just barely get by" Life, and a "I'm Proud of Myself" Satisfying one.

The reason I left school is because I was pregant. I felt the kids would make fun of me. I was 17 and in the 10th grade. I had a bad child hood so I figured if I got pregant it would be a great escape goat.

I tried to study wile I was in school but I guess you could say I hung the wrong kids. So I ended skipping school & running away. Then evenually I quit them all.

Now I'm grown & have two kids 14 & 13 and I only hope they finish. I've gotten into computers here at home & if I had my G.E.D. I could of gone off to college & became either a zoolologist or computer operator.

It's been a hard life since I've raised two kids by myself & had to work two & three jobs to care for them. Where if I'd gone to school gotten a diploma & gone to college I could of made the total (money) of two or three jobs in just one and would of spent more time with them.

My advice to young people is the world is hard its not getting easier. If you ever want to make big bucks you have to have an education to prove your worth big bucks.

I guess I can blame my dropping out of school on shear stupity, I thought school was useless and a waste of time. In all actuality I was the only one being useless and wasting, alot more than time.

Up until the tenth grade I was a great student, then I found out going to partiesand skipping school were fun. I figured what was school doing for me but keeping me from what I wanted to do. At the end of tenth grade I dropped out.

Its almost impossible to find a decent job without a diploma. That may seem alright now but, in a few years, maybe you will want to make something of your life.

barely getting buy was okay until I had a baby, then everything seemed to change. I wanted to make a good life for my daughter in short, I grew up. I realized there is more to life than having fun all the time. I also found out that when you do something you can be proud of, it is a good time and it makes you feel good about yourself.

Dear CCS Students,

Not long ago, well it seems like only yesterday, but as time will have it, it's been almost thirty years; I too was a senior in high school. It was my fourteenth new school in eleven years. My folks were always on the move. Needles to say studies were comming harder with each move and my interest in school was gone. Making new friends and having fun was top priority. With just four months to go until graduation, I droped out of school. I got a job in a theater selling popcorn and taking tickets. In the Spring my classmates graduated and I lost my job. My first real lesson came when I started reading the "Help Wanted" section of the local newpaper. If you haven't, you should! Take notice of the fine print, "High school graduate or GED required." Now is the time to finish what you started.

1. Make time to study.
2. work hard for good grades.
3. Graduate with your firends and fellow classmates.
4. Don't be to proud to ask for help if you don't understand.
5. Save the fooling around for after school is out for the day. What you think might make life easier today, could be a real rough road tomorrow.

Graduate, you'll feel good about yourself.

Sincerely

One who's been there.

I was fifteen years old, and in nineth grade, when I left school. I was attending XXXXX High, in XXXXX, Wash.

I was to beusy socializing to really do any work. More or/less-I was called a junvenile delinquent. Because, I was into drugs and drinking. All that got me was: getting kicked out of my house (left out on my own), gettin g myself into more trouble such as, with the law, friends, and family. I was never put in a juvenile hour, or anything like that. Thats only because I straightened my act up. I realized it wasn't worth it, in the long run. I probably be on the streets, dead, or hooking. That's never fun. I was a lucky one! I had a few places &/people to turn to most teenagers don't! It never last too long, anyways what I did is, I decided to get myself a job. The only job I could get was, because of my brother. He was working with fish. He put is neck out, and got me a job I ended up to be the best worker.

As soon as I was settled down, I went to study for my G.E.D. It kept me from making money. (As much money as I wanted) so, I had to quit my G.E.D.

I'm still with the same company. Im here in XXXXX, AK for the winter. There's nothing really to do here, except work so, Im gonna try it again (G.E.D.). And im gonna succeed. Its worth it!!

Im now working with fish. Thats no way to spend the rest of one's life Its good money. But, It never last a year straight. Then, where do you go? Im determined to get a G.E.D., and do something with my life why can't you do the same. Think about it for awhile. It's actual not that bad. You feel a hell of alot better about yourself. It's like a proud feeling to accomplish something on your own. To show your friend, family, and yourself, "IT CAN BE DONE YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF".

To all the Young people thinking about leaving school. Do consider everything first.

Did you know that a lot of job places won't hire a person with out a diploma? Banks, require an employee to have a diploma before hiring. The State of Alaska wouldn't hire any one with out one. Even for a job like a Flag person. Some people don't like a person with out at least a High School education to care for their children. They fell you wouldn't be able to stimulate their children in the education area. Most Colleges and Training Schools require a diploma and a good grade average to enter.

Most jobs a person can get with out a diploma are minmum wage. Believe me, It's disapointing to have to work very hard 12 hours a day and still not have money for the bills, cloths and food that you need. Remeber everone needs things like a house to live in, cloths, doctors and food, just to get by.

I have been out of school since 1974. I was in the tenth grade when I quite school. When I think back to this time in my life, I think that my reasons for quiting were a bit immature. I felt that some of my

teachers were unfair and my family like unreasonable. Comuncating with my family and teachers would have probably helped me stay in school. It seems like when we are teenagers it is so hard to comuncate.

When I was in school I had to work hard to earn C^{s} and B^{s}. But after 11 years of being out of school I've lost someof my everyday skills. There is times when helping my 6th grade son with his homework, the work is a bit to much for me.

Working for my G.E.D. diploma is a real challenge for me. Not only will receiving a diploma help me find a higher paying job, It'll also be my option whether I could enter a College or Training school. I feel to that as a parent, If I expect my children to work their hardest for and education, I should to.

Trying to work things out to stay in school would be a lot of help to yourselfs. They really do have a lot of equipment and knowledge thatwill help you out in everday life. Think of it this way, what harm can a education do?

My Story

1972 was a boon year in XXXXX, Alaska for drugs. You could get anything, marijuana, L.S.D. or P.C.P to name a few. Boy was my Dad dumb! He didn't have any idea about what I was doing. I could even take drugs during school and nobody knew.

Ninth grade was a cinch. I was so smart! I could attend three classes a week and get A's and B's. But socializing was so much more fun. Wasn't having fun a part of life too?

Gradually socializing became top priority and school fell by the wayside. My of my time was spent driving around with my friends getting high than staying in school becoming educated.

Did I say that my Dad wasn't aware of what I was doing. I guess Dad's are a lot smarter than their kids give them credit for and I was not as smart as I thought I was.

Suddenly my As & Bs became Ds & Fs. My Dad was so dissappointed in me and where were my friends when I needed them?

The situation couldn't get any worse so my Dad decidedto send me to a Catholic boarding school 3,000 miles away. With no more friends and no more drugs the only thing I could do was learn.

I tenth grade I learned to type, I sharpened my mathematic skills nad my english imporved tremendously.

Summer vacation came and home was where I wanted to be. Back to Alaska I came. I was wiser than when I left but how much wisdom can you gain in just one year of your life? I got a job at the local animal

shelter scooping poop and my Dad told me that if I towed the line I could go back to my old school. I was sixteen that summer and when I met XXXXX I fell head over heels in love. Nobody existed but us. The summer just flew by. Before I knew it school was starting again and my Dad had a big surprise for me. I was going back to the boarding school. What 3,000 miles away from XXXXX? I couldn't bear the thought of leaving. Wes was supportive. Go back, he said, school is important and I will wait for you. The day I was to leave we said our good-byes, promised to write and when I returned we would marry.

I ran away from home that night never to return to my family or to school. I ran to XXXXX and we have been together ever since. We have two children both of whom are now in school. We also have sled dogs that we both train for racing. XXXXX works away fro mhome 4 to 6 months of the year and I hold down the fort when he is gone. I guess I didn't need to be educated for my life but then again it isn't over yet.

I am a very lucky person. My husband takes good care of me and I don't have to have a job. But if I did what kind of job could I get? I do know how to wash dishes and clean a house. I can balance my checkbook, I always was good in math. Maybe I could get a job as a dog handler, after all I am an expert poop scooper. Maybe I will never have to get a job but just in case I plan on geting my GED, after all I am a smart person and I want to be prepared for whatever comes my way.

Think ahead, will you be able to support yourself and possibly a family? Will you be able to say to your children, I didn't quit I made it through. The best way to be prepared for this world is to have an education.

Needs for an Education

I want to the young people of our society to put the education that's offered to them in good use. I tell my five children that everday. My oldest son when turned eighteen. He thought he was old enough and didn't need no more schooling. The boy failed two subjects in this senior year. so he didn't graduate. He could have made them up but didn't. He's paying for it now, when tries to get a good paying job. I tell my children I wish I could have finished school. My father made me quit when I was in ninth grade, the second semester.

I carried A, B and sometimes C's. But I worked hard at my studies. I loved school very much. But my father didn't think girls needed education. I cried and pleaded with hime, but it was no use. So I babysitted and cleaned other peoples homes. I thought if I was going to do that it should be my own.

So I got married at sixteen. Boy was that a wrong chose. I still ended up taking care of other peoples children and homes to make ends meet. Because thats the only kind of jobs I could get with out any education.

Don't get me wrong I love my children. That's why I

encourage them and other children in this world. To learn, study hard and get all the education possible. I'm not saying will make life easier but will help to have an education. So you can get a good paying job that will help you have a comfortable life and a family too. God gave you a mind please put it to good use.

If my husband dies today and I went to apply for a job the first thing to be asked. Do you have a high school diploma? And I would have to say no. What kind of jobs do I qualify for? What could I say, but babysitting and housework. That really goes over big.

I've helped my children with their school work. And its helped me a lot. They would say "boy your smart mom." I said if I had finished school look what I could have been doing today. Pushing a pencil instead of a broom.

You can see I need help in spelling and the use of punctuation. I want to be able to write a letter or a business letter and know what I'm doing.

So finally after nineteen years I will be able to get that piece of paper and more knowledge that's the means the world to have. I'll go from there to further my education for a career of my own.

Why I Left School

Going through Kindergarten to Eight is no problem,. to me it was easy little homeworks everything was going well no family and school problems, then high school, thats when teenage problems begin, to others it may not be a problem, going through teenage to adult is hard thats when we deal with drugs. drugs are the worst problems, once you take one you'll want to do it again, going out on parties getting behind on home work. the problem was I didn't share or ask for help. asking a friend or a teacher is an answer when we have problems.

I left school in my junior year I learned many things I didn't know, I worked hard on some things I liked, some were hard, a help from a teacher was more better than just to do it any ways, studing was better before tests.

Why I'm working for my diploma now

At first I didn't care if I didn't get a diploma, cause I had everything I needed, year's latter I realize I needed a diploma. My friends who got there deiploma are working,...I tryed finding a good job, sorry was the only answer I got from them, my mistake was to left school. there I had a chance to learn and plan for my future.

My advice to young people, quitting school is a mistake, learning is what counts. cause in the future your going to ask your self why you lift school ending up with no job is no fun, it will be harder to find a good job, you ever see some people with no home's, no food taking things from the trash, asking money fro mpeople, is that what you want be like? our parents did the right thing to put us to school, for our future.

And if you have a problem ask for help. ask some one you trust or a teacher.

I left school because I got married and at that time married people did not go to high school.

I was at the end of my eleveth grade. I had about two weeks to go.

I had a very hard time in school. I didn't really enjoy it. I think that is what it didn't brother me so much when I did quit. I don't think I really worked very hard in school, therefore it was always very hard for me.

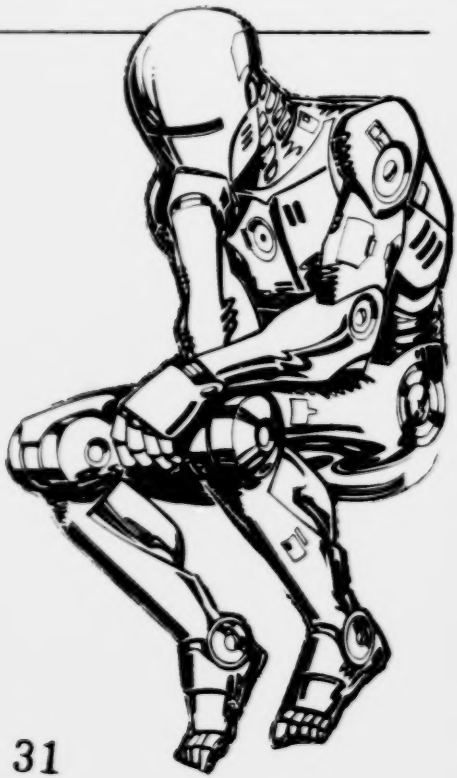
My advice to young people who want to quit school is "don't" . It is a very hard world and you need a good education. We would never let any of our children ever quit. They don't even think about it because they know it isn't even an option to be consider.

I realy wish I would have done a lot better in school. It has been hard trying to find a job. Also I would feel better about myself If I had a good education.

I made a mistake leaving the school by following other students that were dropout from school. I thought it would be good for me to leave school, but it wasn't. with nothing to do, no job, no diploma, to get a job. well, just few of them people without a diploma have jobs but they don't work very long. its hard for me to get a job because if I apply for a job that person will ask if I got a diploma. like I always see or read a sign an opening job with a written high school diploma or GED diploma. I thought it would be easy for me to get a job but it isn't too me, it is hard.

I left school when I was in 9th grade. and lot of times I took G.E.D. but I kept putting it off when I was taking G.E.D. now Im working for it to get a better job. (if I pass the tests)

That's all I have say.



Alaska Department of Education
Correspondence Study
Pouch GA
Juneau, Alaska 99811